



The CHIMES

MUHLENBERG: A WELLSPRING OF GRACE

Muhlenberg Lutheran Church strives to be a Wellspring of God's Grace in Jesus Christ.

Open † Authentic † Relational † Serving

Published Weekly by Muhlenberg Lutheran Church

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March 17, 2019

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

CALL PROCESS UPDATE

Good news! With Pastor Lauren settling in, Council sought her input as to what our next pastoral position should look like and the skills needed from that candidate. We agreed that Muhlenberg would post our next Call as a full-time Associate Pastor. At Council's retreat a few weeks ago, we went through the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) the congregation assembled in 2017. The majority of the information was still relevant, but we did update some information for the new call of an Associate Pastor, particularly the top five skills and strengths we are looking for in a candidate. *Updated copies of the MSP are available at the Connection Center this morning.*

It gives me great pleasure to announce the members of our next Call Committee: **Karen Thomsen (Chair), Brad Moyers, Jenny Gibson, Steve Reich, Adam Copeland and Melissa Perritt.** We are inviting an Assistant to the Bishop to review the call process with our new committee so we can move forward. Please keep Muhlenberg, the candidates, and our Call Committee in your prayers as we move into a new discernment process for our next Pastor. *Tim Peifer, Congregation Council President*

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

NEW WORSHIP BOOKLET FORMAT

You'll notice a new format for our worship booklet. The details about why we do what we do have been moved from a side column to the back of the booklet. Visitors and members alike will find these descriptions helpful. We hope you find the new format fresh and easy to follow.

LENTEN WORSHIP AND ACTIVITIES

Lent is a season of spiritual gardening, of inviting God to



unearth in us what lies fallow, what needs to be tended, and what needs to die for new life to emerge. *See pages 4-7 or visit the Gathering Area for details outlining our Lenten worship and activities.*

WELCOME GUESTS

We are blessed to welcome our guests today. We have a gift waiting for you at the Welcome Desk in the Gathering Area (main church entrance) and ask that you complete a blue guest card and/or sign our guest register. If you prefer, you may scan this QR code or securely register online at www.muhlenberglutheran.org.



TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

SECOND HOME FOOD COLLECTION



TODAY we collect *wheat crackers (family size)* for Second Home students. Place donations in the designated bin in the Gathering Area. If you wish to help and prefer to make a cash donation, designate *Second Home food* on your check and envelope.

DID YOU PURCHASE A COMFORT?

If you purchased a comfort last week, please pick it up today from the back of the sanctuary. Place a check in the offering plate, indicating "Comforts" on your check and envelope.

CONTACTING PASTOR LAUREN

Email Pastor Lauren anytime at miller@muhlenberglutheran.org. Reach her anytime by calling the church office (434-3496).

- During office hours, ask to speak with Linda Depoy. She has Pastor Lauren's schedule and can assist you.
- After hours, leave a message on Pastor Lauren's voice mail and it will be immediately forwarded to her cell phone. She will respond as soon as possible.

URGENT PASTORAL VISITS

With Pastor Lauren serving as our solo pastor, Pastor Bill Nabers has graciously agreed to help with urgent pastoral care until we call an Associate Pastor. You may see him making visits to hospitals, nursing homes, and members' homes. We are grateful for his ministry among us! (Note: many long-time members will remember Pastor Bill from his previous service at Muhlenberg.)

FINANCIAL NEWS

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

8:00 Worship	59	Wed. Noon	16
9:30 Worship	124	Wed. PM	65
11:00 Worship	<u>148</u>		
Total	331		

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through February 2019			
	Y-T-D Actual	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Last Year
Gifts & Offerings	\$102,094	\$122,412	\$104,253
Total Receipts	\$126,537	\$148,279	\$128,502
Expenses	\$143,414	\$176,995	143,400
Excess Income/ (Expenses)	(\$16,877)	(28,716)	(\$14,898)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$	10,692.64
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$	<u>8,785.19</u>
Total Giving for the Week	\$	19,477.83

See Connection Center notebook for details.

February Thrivent Choice Dollars: \$344

To give online, scan here →



THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

Eligible Thrivent Financial members can recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes a portion of its charitable outreach funds using a vehicle called *Choice Dollars*®, part of the Thrivent Choice member-advised charitable grant program.

Thrivent members have until March 31 to direct any remaining 2018 Choice Dollars®. After that date, **2018** funds will expire.

If you haven't already, designate your Choice Dollars® by calling Thrivent representative Sherry Ritenour at 540-325-4233 or visiting Thrivent.com/thriventchoice. Remember, Muhlenberg is among your choices to consider.

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

GO-GO BREAKFAST



Go-Go
Group

Are you 55+ and enjoy fellowship with others? Join the Go-Go Group **THIS Tuesday, March 19, 8:30 am** at Thomas

House in Dayton. *Contact Dan Werner at 433-3912 for more information.*

MARY MARTHA TEA

Join the Mary Martha Group, Ruth Sigmon and Sophie Moeller Circles for tea and fellowship **NEXT Sunday, March 24 at 12:30** in the Nielsen Room. The Green Hummingbird, a local fair trade shop, will present a fashion show. All are welcome!



FAMILY CAMP NIGHT

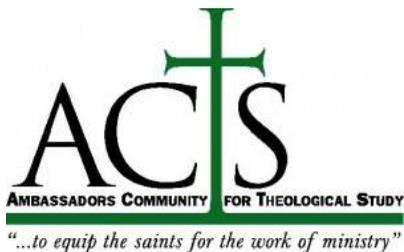


The VA Synod Southern Valley Conference is holding Family Camp Night **for all ages NEXT Sunday, March 24, 5:00-7:00**

in the MAC. Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp staff will present an evening with dinner, games and information about camp, including adult activities! Sign up at the Connection Center for food planning purposes. *Contact Diane Bayer (bayer@muhlenberglutheran.org / 434-3496).*



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



ACTS SPRING COURSE

April 6 and May 11, 9:00 – 3:00 at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Waynesboro. Details and registration forms can be found at the Connection Center. Scholarships cover the cost for Muhlenberg attendees. **Registration deadline is TOMORROW, March 18.** *Contact Diane Bayer if you are interested.*

MUHLENBERG NEWS

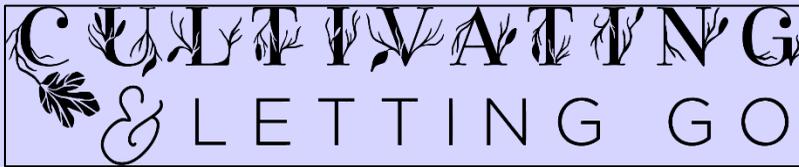
CREATION CARE TIP

Creation Care offers a simple tip that will help you protect God's earth. Contact Ramona Sanders for more information: 433-1165 or rsanders9@verizon.net.



Collect your reusable shopping bags and store them in your car. The next time you're at the supermarket, you'll have the bags with you. Reusable shopping bags help cut down on waste and preserve natural resources. In the United States, we use 11 million plastic shopping bags every hour. Be sure to ask about rebates for bringing your own bags. Some supermarkets will take 5 cents off of your bill for every bag you bring.

LENT: CULTIVATING AND LETTING GO



Cultivate (verb): to prepare and use for the raising of crops; to foster the growth of; to improve by labor, care, or study; to refine; to further; to encourage.

Let go (verb): relinquish one's grip on someone or something.

Lent is a season of spiritual gardening, of inviting God to unearth in us what lies fallow, what needs to be tended, and what needs to die for new life to emerge. This year, our lectionary offers us images and stories with themes of earthiness and grit. We'll explore these texts in worship each Sunday, and through the week engage in an intergenerational art project, Wednesday evening dinner church, and devotional reflections written by Muhlenberg members.

ART

Each Sunday as you arrive for worship, you'll receive a work of art that you may color during the sermon—or sometime during the week for further reflection on the Bible passage for the week. Coloring activates a different part of our brain and can help us focus. Colored pencils are provided for this activity. If you miss a Sunday or you'd just like an extra copy, you can find them in the Gathering Area.

You'll also notice an intergenerational art project in the Gathering Area. Our "tree" will change through Lent, as we create origami art to reflect our personal cultivating and letting go. Visually and symbolically, this project will take us through the seasons, beginning with autumnal colors for Letting Go and ending with new growth for Cultivating. Pick up a packet by the tree and bring your origami back next week to add to the communal art!

About the Logo...

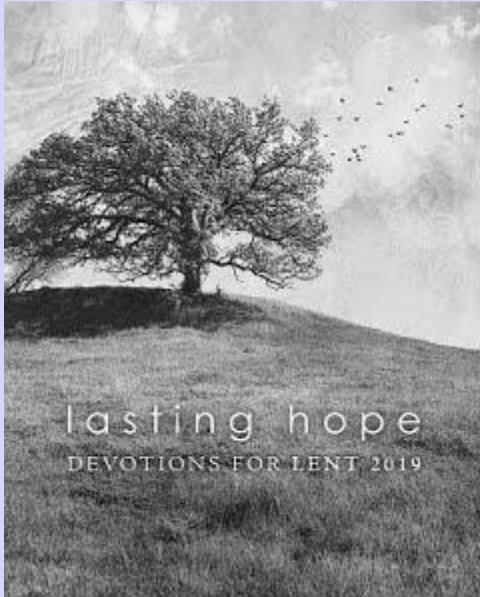
"There's this moment as winter is reaching its end when the dead branches sway in the growing warmth of the sun, and I wonder, will these trees find new life? Will leaves and flowers begin to bud from these dead limbs, ushering in the spring—or will winter never cease? As we discussed the theme, what emerged for me visually was this moment when the limbs of trees seem suspended between the harsh cold of winter and the vibrancy of spring. These reaching branches need tending, water, and sunlight to grow, and this logo is meant to image that parched posture. The letters of 'letting go' are stripped bare to recall a returning to self and a letting go of that which keeps us from God and one another." —LAUREN WRIGHT PITTMAN, director of branding, A Sanctified Art

CULTIVATING & LETTING GO

CULTIVATING AND LETTING GO DEVOTIONS

We're providing many ways to cultivate faith daily throughout Lent. Choose one or two that you'd like to explore. In the Gathering Area, you'll find the *Cultivating and Letting Go* devotional booklet, with art, poetry, and space to journal. This booklet pairs with the large 11 x 17 coloring page with sections to color each week as you reflect.

Twice a week throughout Lent, reflections on our theme of *Cultivating and Letting Go* written by Muhlenberg members will be emailed to our mailing list. If you are not currently on the email list, you can sign up on our website, muhlenberglutheran.org. Printed copies will also be available each week at the Connection Center in the Gathering Area. *If you are interested in submitting a devotion, contact Mycah McNett (mcnett@muhlenberglutheran.org or 434-3496).*



Also available in the Gathering Area is a daily Lenten devotional entitled "Lasting Hope," a beautiful, full-color booklet exploring the Lenten Psalm texts; and resources for children and families.

Additionally, you can sign up for daily email devotions at <http://eepurl.com/bcbuf9>. These brief, meaningful reflections will take participants through the gospel of Luke during Lent. They are coordinated by an ELCA church in Michigan, but include a number of authors from Virginia, including Pastor Lauren.



CULTIVATING & LETTING GO

WORSHIP CHANGES DURING LENT

The season of Lent brings with it opportunities for us to cultivate and let go of aspects of our liturgy and worship practice. Such changes are intended to highlight the journey we make to the cross and engage us in a time of repentance, introspection, and discipline.

- On *Transfiguration of Our Lord*, we let go of the word “Alleluia” for the season of Lent. Based on the Hebrew word, hallelu yah, meaning “praise the Lord,” alleluia has been a word of great praise to God in the life of the church. Because of the penitential character of the Lenten season in the Western church, singing or saying the word alleluia has historically been suspended during Lent’s forty days.
- There are no flowers during this penitential season, and we receive unleavened wafers at communion.
- Through the season of Lent, communion will be received at the altar rail, either standing or kneeling as you are able.
- In our worship we sing only the “Kyrie” and not the Hymn of Praise, “Glory to God.” We use a musical setting that is more chant-like. It may feel new, but actually comes from the 1958 Service Book and Hymnal.

The use of these options invites us to consider what we are cultivating in our lives as well. They also provide a refreshing break until we return to a fuller expression of worship in the Easter season.

MIDWEEK LENTEN DINNER CHURCH

On Wednesdays during Lent, worship will take place around the table: the dinner table. Think of a good dinner party with a spiritual twist – and then add art (music, poetry, Scripture), robust conversation, and prayerful moments (embracing simple liturgy and silence). Together we’ll cultivate relationships with each other and with God.

We’ll begin at 6:15 pm in the MAC and wrap up by 7:15 pm. This casual yet meaningful experience is great for all ages. (*Note: Arriving as close to 6:15 as possible will give you a better chance of finding a parking space. By that time, most Day Care and Second Home children have been picked up.*)

CULTIVATING & LETTING GO

LENTEN MIDDAY RECITAL SERIES

Martin Luther said...

"Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world."

Please join us **Thursdays at noon** during the Lenten season as we feature a variety of incredible musicians. Each week this 30-minute program offers an opportunity to temporarily release the stress of the day and be rejuvenated through the power of music. Concerts are free and open to all. Artists performing this season:

- Mar 21** **Gianne Ge Zhu, piano**
DMA Candidate at JMU, and Music Ministry Accompanist at Muhlenberg
- Mar 28** **Elizabeth Williams, organ & piano**
Muhlenberg's Music Minister
- April 4** **Edward Gant, cello**
JMU Music Faculty
- April 11** **Florence Jowers, organ and John Bullard, classical banjo**
*Florence: Minister of Music, Christ Lutheran
John: freelance musician from Richmond.*



LENTEN COLLECTIONS

ELCA WORLD HUNGER BOX

Boxes are available in the Gathering Area. Funds raised will be used to help feed the hungry all over the world.

BASKETS OF PROMISE

During Lent, Christian Formation (through the JAMers elementary youth group) and Local & Global Mission are sponsoring Lutheran World Relief's *Baskets of Promise* appeal by collecting items for personal care kits.

Look for a complete list of needed items at the Connection Center. Contact *Diane Bayer* (bayer@muhlenberglutheran.org or 434-3496) with any questions.

TODAY, March 17, we collect **BATH TOWELS (lightweight, dark colors, 52" x 27")**. We ask for lightweight towels because they dry quicker in the sun!

NEXT Sunday, March 24, we collect toothbrushes (adult size in original package).



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED



We are always in need of worship servants: lectors, ushers, acolytes, communion greeters, assistants/stewards, sound techs, etc.

For **April and Holy Week**, we're going to need lots of servants! Sign up in the notebook at the Connection Center. One-on-one training can be arranged – just indicate the training needed on the sign-up sheet or contact Kathy Thompson (thompskb@jmu.edu or 578-4830). If you prefer to sign up online, follow the path below from our website:

Worship + Community > Worship: What to Expect > Worship + Music Leadership

Prefer to work behind the scenes? We have many opportunities – talk with Kathy to learn how you can serve.

HAVE THE HEART OF A SERVANT?

Want to spend a morning or afternoon each week in a welcoming environment while serving your church and community? The church office is looking for members who have time to serve in a volunteer capacity as an office assistant/receptionist in the Narthex and Gathering Area. Orientation/training provided.

Can't make a firm commitment? You can still help. We also need assistants to *fill in* on occasion. Additionally, we periodically have special projects that may be done at the church office or sometimes from home.

To explore any of these opportunities, please contact Parish Administrator Linda Depoy (depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org / 434-3496). In compliance with state regulations and Safe Church policies, there is an interview and application process.

Ever wonder where communion bread comes from?

VOLUNTEERS!

Ever wonder how communion glasses get cleaned???

VOLUNTEERS!

Ever wonder how communion linen gets cleaned???

VOLUNTEERS!

None of these necessary tasks are difficult or all that time consuming. Volunteers are needed to assist those who are carrying the load week to week.

Why not spread these tasks among our large congregation you say...well then, why not volunteer?

- Contact David Hill (234-8892) to bake the communion bread.
- Contact Sylvia Hollen (sahollen@comcast.net / 833-6723) to get on the list to clean the communion linen.
- We especially need help to clean and store the glasses and communion ware after the 9:30 and 11:00 am services. Contact David Hill.

Will you help?

LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION

Contact Local & Global Mission Chair
Karen Matthias (kfmatthias@gmail.com / 434-4625)
for more information.

CLOTHING FUND

The clothing fund will be depleted this summer. Please consider donating via the offering plate with a check made payable to Muhlenberg and indicate "Clothing Fund" on your check and envelope. This fund provides underwear for distribution to needy families via the Trinity (Presbyterian) Clothes Closet, for students' clothing needs at Minnick School, and for other emergency clothing needs that are brought to our attention. Response to this request is usually so generous that we only need to ask to replenish the fund every two or three years. Thank you for considering a donation at this time.

BRIDGE OF HOPE (BOH)



BOH needs Neighboring Volunteer Groups of 6-10 committed people who will walk alongside and encourage a family in its program. BOH works with single-parent families facing homelessness locally. Initial training, ongoing relational support, and planned monthly gatherings are provided. *If interested, contact Director Chris Hoover Seidel (director@hr.bridgeofhopeinc.org or 717-602-0871).*

DID YOU KNOW...

Muhlenberg members can donate to many organizations and Muhlenberg funds via the offering plate at any time. Please designate the name of the organization on your check and envelope. *Visit the Connection Center for a complete list of organizations we support.*

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

Tornadoes on March 3 devastated areas of Alabama, Georgia and Florida causing widespread destruction. 100% of your gifts given to Lutheran Disaster Response go directly to aid in disaster relief. Visit the Connection Center for more information. Here are ways you can give:

- **Online:** www.elca.org.
- **Phone:** 800-638-3522 Monday-Friday, 8:00-5:00 Central Time.
- **Mail:** send checks made payable to Lutheran Disaster Response and designated for *U.S. Tornadoes* to ELCA, PO Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009.
- **Offering plate:** make check payable to Muhlenberg and designate *ELCA Disaster Response* on your check and envelope.
- **Via Thrivent:** Thrivent Financial members can direct their Choice Dollars to Disaster Relief and/or make a personal donation that will be matched by Thrivent. Visit thrivent.com Disaster Response for details.

DON'T STRESS OUT!

Please do not feel overwhelmed by the number of opportunities to help our neighbors both near and far. The Local and Global Mission ministry team likes to inform the congregation of the many opportunities to use our time, talent, and/or resources to help others.



If you wish to participate, choose the organization that touches your heart, knowing that others will be drawn to help with different needs.

SECOND HOME NEWS

TEACHER NEEDED



Second Home has an immediate opening for a part-time after school program teacher to work with 1st and 2nd grade students for the remainder of the school year, with a possibility to renew for next school year. We are open 3:00 - 6:00 pm Monday - Friday on days when Harrisonburg City Public Schools are open.

A love of working with children and degree (or near completion) in education, TEFL, psychology, social work or related areas and/or experience in working with children are required. Any offer will be contingent on a successful national fingerprint background check.

We are looking for a mission oriented, caring person who is able to work both independently and as a member of a small team. Are you interested or do you know someone who may be? *For more information, please contact Executive Director Krisztina Szekely (2ndhomedirector@gmail.com or 432-7989).*

SECOND HOME FUNDRAISER

Harrisonburg Women's Service League's 17th Annual Charity Classic Golf Tournament will be held **Friday, May 3 at Spotswood Country Club**. This year, they have selected Second Home as the charity the tournament will support. See additional information below.

Harrisonburg Women's Service League
presents the
17th Annual Charity Classic
Golf Tournament
Benefiting
Second Home: providing children with a safe
place to learn and grow
Friday, May 3, 2019

Spotswood Country Club
Shotgun start at 1 pm
Dinner & Silent Auction to follow

For more information, please visit www.hwsl.org

COMBINED YOUTH NEWS

For more information, contact Mycah McNett
(mcnett@muhlenberglutheran.org / 434-3496).

MUSEUM OF THE BIBLE IN DC



Calling all youth and families! JAMers, Alpha Teens, and JCrew youth groups are planning a trip to the Museum of the Bible in Washington, DC **Saturday, May 18**. If you are interested, please sign up in the youth binder at the Connection Center **by March 24**. Pricing is still to be determined - right now we are looking for interest in the trip and how many people want to attend!

JCREW NEWS

SAVE THE DATE

For more information, contact Clay Arthur
(arthurt@muhlenberglutheran.org or 540-758-3208).

We will travel to Richmond **April 6-7** to gather with youth from Epiphany Lutheran Church. We will enjoy a day of fun with them, spend the night and worship with them Sunday morning. More details coming soon.

J
CREW

SOCIAL MEDIA CONNECTIONS

Are you on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter? Why not Like or Follow Muhlenberg? Get informative updates regularly throughout the week, photos, prayers, and inspirations/devotionals. It is also a great way to let your friends know about your church and our ministry. Find us on Facebook by searching for Muhlenberg Lutheran Church, or follow us on Instagram and Twitter at @MuhlenbergLC.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION NEWS

Contact Christian Formation Minister Diane Bayer
(434-3496 / bayer@muhlenberglutheran.org)
for more information.

SHARING GOD'S WORD

Classes begin in designated locations **Sundays at 9:30**. Children should be picked up **immediately** following the 9:30 liturgy.

Children's Church is held on the 1st & 3rd Sundays during the 11:00 service for children 3-7 years old. After Children's Time with the pastor, children are escorted downstairs to the Nielsen Room. Children return to their parents in the Sanctuary during the Sharing of the Peace.

Pick up a green Christian Formation brochure from the Connection Center. It contains information about classes for children and adults.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

TODAY and Sunday, March 31 at 12:15, led by Pastor Lauren. We ask that one parent/guardian attend the class with your child. *Please contact Diane Bayer if your child plans to attend.*



Saturday, April 13, students will make communion bread in the MAC and go to the sanctuary to review the service for their First Communion. They will **receive communion with their families Palm Sunday, April 14**.

Most often, first communion class is for students in the 3rd or 4th grade whose parents/guardians think this is the appropriate time for their child to start the class. Younger or older children are welcome to participate. If you have a younger child that you feel is ready for communion, they are invited to the class and may commune after parent/guardian consultation with Pastor Lauren.

JOYS, THANKS & CONCERNS

This is the space for sharing joys, thanks, and concerns of our congregation, our synod, and the wider church. Please lift these up as a part of your daily prayers. To share joy, thanks, or concern (e.g. birth, illness, injury, or death of an immediate family member; thank-you and congratulatory notes, etc.) contact Parish Administrator Linda Depoy at 434-3496 or depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org. Submissions will be printed with consideration for space and appropriateness at the discretion of the pastors & editor.

✙ We offer sympathy to the family of Charles “Bus” Sipe. A memorial service will be held at Muhlenberg this Saturday, March 23 at 1:00 pm with a reception in the Gathering Area afterward.

✙ Dear Muhlenberg Family: Thank you for the prayers, cards, calls, visits and help in the past few weeks. I thank God that injuries were not more serious. And I know your prayers lifted me up during this frightening experience. Being part of this family is a true blessing.

Sincerely, Sandy Brzozowski

PRAYER CARDS



Prayer Requests

Thanks to the suggestion of one of our thoughtful youth, we have a prayer request box on the welcome desk. You can find prayer request cards in the back inside cover of the worship book in your pew or at the Welcome Desk in the Gathering Area.

On the form, you will see that one option is to share the prayer request with the “prayer chain.” Our prayer chain is an email group that receives and covenants to pray for these requests, as well as holding them confidential. To receive these emails (an average of three per week), email depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org with your request.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

PRAYING OUR FAITH TOGETHER!

For individual and family use. Scripture citations taken from ELW's 3-Year Daily Lectionary, p. 1143- 1153, (Year C).

Mon. Romans 4:1-12 Thu. Revelation 2:8-11
Tue. 1 Cor. 10:1-13 Fri. Revelation 3:1-6
Wed. Luke 13:22-31 Sat. Luke 6:43-45
Sun. Luke 13:31-35

In the Name of the Father and of the + Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

March 18-24, 2019

Mon. 6:30 pm Congregation Council Meeting
Tue. 8:30 am Go-Go Breakfast
4:45 pm SonShine Singers
5:30 pm Cherub Choir
6:30 pm Celebration Singers
7:00 pm Gloria Dei Ringers
Wed. 12 noon Holy Communion
6:15 pm Lenten Dinner Church
7:15 pm Sanctuary Choir
Thu. 8:00 am Comfort Makers
12 noon Lenten Recital Series
Sun. 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am Holy Communion
9:30 am Christian Formation
12:30 pm Mary Martha Tea
5:00 pm Camp Night

The weekly deadline for routine articles for *The Chimes* is Thursday at 8 am. Requests for a series, inserts or full-column articles should be made two weeks in advance. Submit information to Linda Depoy (depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org/434-3496).

Additionally, requests to utilize space in the Gathering Area on Sunday or post information at the Connection Center should be made to Linda as soon as planned, but no later than Thursdays at 8 am.

Check bulletin boards for community information. Like us at [facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran](https://www.facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran).